

## COMPARATIVE PRESENTATION

### Micro100™ vs. other face masks and respective protection concepts

Within the current attempts of confronting the avian flu menace, CDC and WHO recommend wearing a protective face mask. The type defined as sufficient is N-95 (European equivalent filter is P-2). This paper outlines the advantages of Micro100™ over the standard N-95 face mask, and when applicable to Level A masks, and highlights respective concepts.

PARAMETER	STANDARD N-95 (P-2)	MICRO 100™
<b>Filtration of particles</b>	95% (94%)	Tested for: Filtration of 99% of particles >0.1 micron
<b>Filtration of microorganisms</b>	Not tested	Tested for: Filtration of 99.9% of microorganisms including Viruses
<b>Range of protection</b> assuming that avian flu will spread from birds to humans (*)	From contamination by aspiration and digestion	Besides the respiratory orifices the hood protects eyes, ears, bare skin of head and neck(**)
<b>Fitting</b>	Half face masks do not fit all face types, resulting in potential leakage of contaminated air  Verbal communication will induce leakage	Hood accommodates all types of head shapes, including special features like mustache or beard and completely seals the space inside the hood so that all the inhaled air enters only through the filter  Verbal communication is possible, including use of telephone
<b>Protecting the eyes</b>	Half face masks do not protect the eyes	Hood protects the eyes and also allows wearing of glasses if needed
<b>Economical concept in the relevant context</b>	"Level A" protection would be optimal but its high cost would dictate multiple use, leading to potential Cross Infection	Minimal but adequate protection at relatively low cost enables adopting the concept of using a disposable device, thereby isolating contaminants
<b>Ability to drink water during work (essential to avoid dehydration if workers are wearing isolated garments)</b>	Half face mask does not permit drinking of water while in contaminated areas	Hood type masks permit safe drinking via a tube connected to a filtered, protected water bottle
<b>Duration of use</b>	"Level A": about 30 minutes	Not limited by time of use, can be used until clogged
<b>Disposal</b>	Eventually contaminated mask needs special disposal solution	Used hood should be removed by turning it outside-in, to accommodate the used gloves and garments and to be sealed by the rubber bands, thereby not presenting immediate hazard regarding disposal

(\*) There is no precise description yet on the way Avian Influenza Virus is transmitted from bird to bird or from birds to humans.

(\*\*) In any case complementary protection will be necessary (such as gloves and garments).

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